

# CAPTAIN AND CREW OF HAMAKUA ON ARRIVAL HERE CAN'T EXPLAIN FIRE

(Continued from Page 1)

no time to dress or save a thing."

Most of the sailors suffered from the fire. When the Claudine docked this morning Captain Wichert was met at Pier 12 by President James A. Kennedy of the Inter-Island, who directed that the crew be given coffee and bread on the Claudine, which was done. Most of the sailors lost not only most of their clothes, but money as well, sums ranging from \$2.50 to \$4 and \$5. One of the sailors suffered a bumped head during the launching of the lifeboats, but no one was seriously injured.

**Chief Engineer's Story**  
"I was in my bunk when the first explosion occurred," said Chief Engineer George T. Porter. "There wasn't time to do a thing except make a jump for the boats and get away from that fire. It was all over in about two minutes. It seemed to me."

**Boatswain Tried to Keep Afloat**  
According to stories told by the crew, the drowned boatswain, after the lifeboat with eight men in it was upset, swam for about two minutes, then went under. Other sailors said a Marshall Islander named Sam in the crew had seized hold of the boat's gun and attempted to keep him afloat. They said they thought from Kaili's actions that he was stunned and nearly unconscious.

**Two Survivors of Maui Wreck**  
Two of the Hamakua's officers, Purser S. W. Kekuewa and Second Assistant Engineer Charles Steel, are survivors of the Maui wreck, when that steamer drove ashore on the rocks of Makalawena Point, North Kona, Hawaii, in March. No lives were lost, but the boat has become a total wreck. She had 10,354 bags of sugar aboard at the time.

After the Hamakua had burned to the water's edge the hull capsized, turning bottom up. Captain Wichert was told last night at Lahaina by Capt. John T. Diggs of the James Makee, which passed the burned hulk some time yesterday, en route from Honolulu. Captain Diggs said the force of the explosion was shown by the upturned wooden hull, several planks in the bottom of which had been blown outward. This would look as though dynamite or other high explosives which explode downward

might have been the cause. Cause of Explosion a Mystery  
The cause of the explosion is a mystery. The captain says that frequently ship acids with other general cargo, and that they might have leaked, gotten into the line and ignited, and caused the first explosion.

In addition to returning the surviving officers, the Claudine brought back 25 sailors, three firemen and three stewards from the steamer to this port early today.

The drowned boatswain Kaili Luli, has been employed by the Inter-Island for more than eight years. He is unmarried and had been employed on the Hamakua since the steamer was purchased by the steamship company last year.

**Captain Makes Report To U. S. Official**  
Today Captain Wichert, whose quick action in saving the lives of his crew by reversing the vessel's position so the after-deck was not filled with smoke and flame is generally commended along the waterfront, made out reports of the disaster, to be filed with the company and the local U. S. inspectors of hulls and boilers. Capt. Joseph J. Meany and Thomas J. Heeney.

**Inquiry to Be Held**  
As soon as Captain Wichert's report is filed with the local inspectors, a date will be set for an inquiry into the disaster, at which testimony will be given by all officers on duty at the time. The death of the chief officer, George Nystrom, means that some of the most important testimony can never be obtained, as Nystrom, who was on watch at the time, saw and first reported the explosion and fire. It was learned today from the chairman of the Industrial accident board that in case Nystrom's salary was less than \$150 a month his widow will receive 40 per cent of his monthly wages each month for six years, the total amount of the indemnity not to exceed \$5000. The widow of the seaman who was lost, if she has no children, will receive 40 per cent of her husband's monthly wages each month for six years, providing his wages were less than \$150 a month. If she has less than three children she will receive 50 per cent, and 60 per cent if more than three children. In this case also the total indemnity shall not exceed \$5000.

## Fire-Wrecked Crew Tell Story at Lahaina; Hulk May Have Gone Ashore

(Special Star-Bulletin Correspondence)  
LAHAINA, Maui, May 30.—Capt. Carl Wichert of the Inter-Island steamer Hamakua, which burned off Makana between 4 and 5 o'clock this morning, and the 36 members of his crew saved, arrived here at 5 o'clock this evening on the Mikahala, which left at 9 o'clock this morning for the scene of the disaster. They will go to Honolulu tonight by the Inter-Island steamer Claudine.

Among the officers of the vessel besides Capt. Wichert are John Fisher, second mate; Wm. Kekuewa, purser; George Porter, chief engineer; John Perry, first assistant engineer; and Charles Steel, second assistant engineer.

**Fire a Surprise**

Capt. Wichert states that he had turned in about 3 o'clock, and was called by First Officer George Nystrom, who was one of the two men lost, who reported the fire. It was not visible but smoke was perceptible. The captain ordered the ship stopped. Before he could get his clothes on, however, a violent explosion occurred below decks which blew off the hatch covers and the flames at once communicated with the gasoline drums on deck and these began to explode like artillery.

The flames spread so rapidly that the crew was able to escape only by the most active effort with only the clothing they happened to be wearing at the time. Nothing on board the vessel was saved except the three ship's boats in which the crew reached the shore. Indeed the flames were so fierce and spread so rapidly that a dozen or more of the members were forced to jump overboard to escape the heat. They were picked up by the boats.

**Mate Probably Killed**

First Officer George Nystrom was last seen near one of the hatches for-

ward trying to locate the fire. It is believed by Capt. Wichert that he was killed when the hatch covers were blown off by the explosion, which seemed almost instantaneous to spread flames to every part of the ship.

Kaili, the boatswain, is thought to have been drowned. He was possibly hurt in the wreckage. Nothing could be found of him, although the boats cruised about for some time searching for him.

**Explosion Tore Open Hull**

The explosion which opened the hatches also tore great holes in the hull, as was proved by Capt. J. T. Diggs and the crew of the power boat James Makee, who came upon the burning wreck about 8 o'clock in the morning, and not knowing that the crew had escaped spent the day cruising in the vicinity looking for possible survivors. Capt. Diggs was on his way to Hawaii, but after his fruitless search turned back to report the disaster to Lahaina. Here he found the Mikahala, which had arrived a few hours earlier with the 37 members of the crew.

**Hamakua Turned Over**  
Capt. Diggs states that when within a mile of the burning ship she suddenly turned completely over, and it was not until he found one of the ship's broken boats that he was able to establish her identity. The bottom planks of the hull were sprung open, according to Capt. Diggs. When he left the hulk it was still afloat but within half a mile of the shore of Kihoolawe. He believes it will be on the rocks before morning.

The place where the Hamakua was deserted by her crew was about 10 miles south of the Maui shore and it was not until after 8 o'clock that the boats made a landing.

### DAILY REMINDERS

Wanted—Two more passengers for motor party around island, \$4 each. Lewis Garage, phone 2141.—Adv.  
For Distilled Water, Hire's Root Beer and all other Popular Drinks try the Con. Soda Water Works Co.—Adv.

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## LOCAL AND GENERAL

Honolulu Lodge of Perfection meets this evening at the Masonic temple.

Judge Joseph S. Ferry, district magistrate of Puna, is in Honolulu on legal business.

The League for Good Films meets at 9:20 Saturday morning in the makai pavilion of the Young roof garden.

Word was received by Robert Hair of Honolulu that his nephew, William C. Hair, has been killed in France.

A supplemental petition has been filed in federal court in the matter of the application of Mrs. Taka Miyake for a writ of habeas corpus.

Further trial of the case of the territory against Mrs. Mary A. Leslie, a replevin suit for the recovery of a copper plate marking the spot where Captain Cook fell, will be had in Circuit Judge Kemp's court tomorrow afternoon.

The last regular monthly meeting before the summer months of the Free Kindergarten and Children's Aid Society will be held Friday morning at 9:30 o'clock at the Library of Hawaii. Diplomats will be given to three graduating from the training school.

Democrat aspirants for city and county offices will hold a general campaign meeting at 7:30 o'clock this evening at the end of the Emma street car line. There will be Hawaiian music, and moving pictures if the weather permits. Last night the candidates started for Waianae but were driven back by the storm and held a meeting in Kaili. Three meetings are scheduled for tomorrow evening.

Suits for divorce have been filed in circuit court as follows: Manuel C. Santos vs. Hannah Santos, alleged desertion; Mrs. M. Cummings vs. Sam Cummings, alleged desertion; S. Morio vs. I. Morio, alleged desertion and non-support; S. Shima vs. G. Shima, alleged desertion and non-support.

M. Sakai, wireless expert of the department of communication in Japan, is a visitor in the city. He is on his way to Japan after paying a visit to the large wireless plants on the mainland. While here he visited the Kahuku wireless station. He planned to visit England, but was unable to secure passage across the Atlantic.

## CATTLE FAMINE IS NOT LIKELY

That the loss of the freighter Hamakua will not necessarily mean a famine in cattle transportation to Honolulu, was stated today by President James A. Kennedy of the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company.

Kennedy said that the company will do its best to keep up cattle shipments from the Big Island to this port. The Hamakua's loss means that the Wallele, a smaller boat, has had to go on the Hamakua run in her place. She left today to load sugar at Honokaa and will bring back cattle from the Parker Ranch. As the Wallele cannot carry so many cattle as the Hamakua, she will probably have to make a special trip every once in a while in addition to her regular ones, to take care of the business.

The Hamakua has been bringing 80 head of cattle a week from ports on Hawaii, or from 320 to 350 head a month. The Inter-Island still has four steamers to carry cattle, the Kailani, Helene, Wallele and Nihaui, but the Hamakua's loss means a serious reduction of tonnage, following the loss of the Maui two months ago. It will mean that there will be no boat in reserve here much of the time.

## KAALI STARTS GUITAR CLASSES

After having conducted a number of successful ukulele classes in a highly satisfactory manner, and in response to many appeals, Ernest K. Kaali, familiarly known as "Hawaii's Music Man," is now forming a class for the study of the guitar, as played with the steel, by the Hawaiians.

This offers an unusual opportunity to those who desire to take up this phase of Hawaii's distinctive music, and doubtless will be hailed with much pleasure by a goodly host of devotees of the musical art.—Adv.

## Money Grows

when it is properly planted—not in the ground, but in a savings account at a bank or in a safe investment. Intelligent economy will enable you to give great help in this war, even though you may never be called upon to shoulder a gun.

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## PICTURES WILL PRECEDE TALKS OF REPUBLICANS

At the Pawaa theater on King street near Kalakaua avenue, the Republican party will hold a big meeting this evening at 7:30, to be presided over by J. Kaniela Evans.

As a curtain raiser the chairman has selected two or three good Keystone Comedy pictures and in between the speakers music will be rendered by Duke Miller's famous orchestra.

All candidates on the Republican ticket nominated in the primaries and who are seeking the support of the people on June 5 will be present to say a few words and in addition to them there will be a few outsiders who have always stood in back of the party. A. M. Cristy, deputy attorney, city and county of Honolulu, will speak on the Frontage Tax law and good roads. Harry Murray will speak on the necessity of a Republican administration, and Lorrin Andrews will speak on the necessity of voting the straight Republican ticket and answer the Democratic claims regarding work done in the Legislature.

Everybody is invited to come and a very pleasant evening is assured every one attending.

## JURISTS URGED TO BUY BONDS

"Your Patriotic Duty—Buy a Liberty Loan Bond."

The importance of this slogan is pointed out in department circular 683, signed by Attorney General Gregory, and addressed to U. S. judges, attorneys and clerks, copies of which have been received by the local federal clerk's office.

The circular reads as follows: "It is of the utmost importance that the widest possible publicity be given to the necessity for purchasing the 'Liberty Loan Bonds' which have been issued by the secretary of the treasury."

"In order to accomplish this, in so far as the department is concerned, it is desired that all envelopes and other official mail containers be stamped in red with the following sentence between the printing on the left hand side and the penalty printed on the right hand side of the envelopes or other containers:

"Your Patriotic Duty—Buy a Liberty Loan Bond."

The purchase of the rubber stamp containing the above sentence and a red stamp pad, for use in each of the offices, is hereby authorized."

### CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETS

The civic convention committee met this morning at its regular weekly meeting. Several subjects were discussed but no definite was decided. A. H. H. chairman of the entertainment committee, announced that he had appointed Mayor John C. Lane and L. W. de Vis-Norton as assistants. C. B. Gage was appointed chairman of the printing and publicity committee.

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We examine eyes and grind glasses to relieve the strain.

**Wall & Dougherty**  
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All we ask is that you get out and vote next Tuesday—Honolulu Automobile Club.—Adv.

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This in its generic sense includes women and children. And, children in particular should be well-fed.

**LOVE'S CREAM BREAD**

"WRAPPED AS SOON AS BAKED"

Supplies more nutriment for the money than any other food

"ALL GROCERS SELL LOVE'S BREAD"

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**Our Semi-Annual REMNANT SALE**

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**Begins Monday Morning, June 4, 8 o'clock.**

**B. F. Ehlers & Co.**

The annual meeting of the school clary building, at 9 o'clock next Wednesday morning. Teachers for the coming school year will be appointed.

**Republicans' Greater Honolulu Meeting**

Democrats having refused to join in debate over campaign issues, Republicans will present to the people the principles by which the party and candidates stand, and the imperative need of Honolulu for a complete Republican victory June 5.

Six special speakers.

**Bijou Theater MUSIC Friday, 7:30**

In Response to the Many Requests We've Had-- and Pursuant to the Numerous Successful Ukulele Classes we've Conducted, we are now forming a

**STEEL GUITAR CLASS**

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Drop in, at your earliest convenience, and let us tell you more about this remarkable offer—then, enroll for this most interesting course by "The Wizard of Hawaiian Music"—and you'll be surprised how easily you'll learn.

Another of our successful ukulele classes, also, now forming, offering:

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**And a Course of Ten One-Hour Lessons**

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**At All Fountains**